LA 12 Collection 1 and 2 Vocabulary and Terminology

Collection 1

Literary Terms:

Characteristics of Epic Hero

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| Criteria for an Epic Poem |
| Actions of the hero often set the fate of a nation or group of people |
| Hero performs courageous deeds. |
| Plot has supernatural beings and events, and may involve a long dangerous journey. |
| The characters often give long, formal speeches |
| The poem reflects timeless values, such as courage and honor. |
| The poem treats universal ideas such as good and evil, life and death. |

Characteristics of Epics

1. Arete: Excellence
2. Greek Epics: Performed by storytellers, weave in history and entertainment; Reflect times of struggle and triumph
3. Hubris: Excessive Pride that is often the downfall of the epic hero
4. Invocation: Opening with a call of the gods or the muses to inspire the telling of the tale
5. In Media Res: In the middle of the action
6. Flashback: Informs the audience about prior events and add suspense by delaying the action in the present; explains reasons for characters’ behavior
7. Foreshadowing: clues to hint at what will happen later in a story’s plot. This technique builds suspense.
8. Epic (Homeric) Similes: Lengthy similes compare heroic events to familiar, everyday events the audience could understand
9. Hexameter: Metrical structure ff 6 stressed syllables (6 unstressed syllables). Helped with memorization
10. Stock Epithet: a descriptive adjective or phrase that is repeatedly used with—or in place of—a noun or proper name. The repetition of epithets, such as “swift-footed Achilles,” helps listeners follow the narrative by associating characters with familiar identifying tags.
11. Dramatic Irony: When the reader knows something important that a character does not know

Collection 1 Vocabulary

Gilgamesh

austere adj.: restrained; spare; very plain.

decreed v.: ordered; commanded.

contortion n.: twisted shape or motion.

squall n.: violent storm that doesn’t last very long.

Iliad

groveling v. used as adj.:crawling; humiliating oneself in front of authority.

gallant adj.: noble; brave.

scourge n.: means of inflicting severe punishment. Usually the word refers to a whip.

fawning v. used as adj.:cringing and pleading.

Beowulf

resolute adj.: determined.

vehemently adv.:violently.

infallible adj.: unable to fail or be wrong.

furled v.: rolled up.

lavish adj.: extravagant.

assail v.: attack.

extolled v.: praised.

Collection 2

Literary

1. Ballad (Song or songlike poem that tells a story)
2. Characterization (actions, words, ideas, physical appearance, other’s opinion)
3. Satire (writing that ridicules human weakness, vice, or folly in order to bring about social reform)
4. Situational Irony (what happens in the story of opposite of what is expected)
5. Narrator (person who tells the story)
6. Couplet (two-line rhyming)
7. Half Rhymes/Approximate rhymes (words almost rhyme)
8. Fable (story to teach a moral/lesson about life)
9. Etymology (origins of a word)
10. Word Analogy (comparison of two words to show how they are alike)
11. Archetypes in Romances (Faithful Follower, Wise Old Man, Dreams, Number 3, Magic, Testing of follower, Betrayal).
12. Romance (verse narrative that traces the adventures of a brave knight or other hero who has to overcome danger, ordignary laws of nature are suspended and idealized heroes fight the forces of evil)
13. Romance Hero (larger-than-life, mysterious origins, performs extraordinary deeds with the aid of magic)
14. Motif—reoccurring image (sometimes archetypes)

Romance Motifs

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| Faithful Follower |
| Wise Old Man |
| Dreams |
| Number 3 |
| Magic |
| Testing of Follower |
| Betrayal |

Selection Vocabulary—Root, Prefix and Suffix

1. Righteous—morally right
2. Prevailed—gained the desired effect
3. Piteous—deserving of pity
4. Dissuade—advise against
5. Brandishing—shaking in a threatening way